



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

(PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY)

**STATEMENT BY H.E. HAMIDON ALI,
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ON AGENDA ITEM 18:
NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO
IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA
AT THE PLENARY OF THE 60TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK
TUESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2005**

Mr. President,

At the outset, my delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement made by G77 and China and to thank the Secretary-General for his important report A/60/213 on this agenda item. Since 1991 beginning from the 46th session of the General Assembly, this august body has repeatedly pronounced its rejection of the use of unilateral measures by one Member State to effect political reforms in another, in this case the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. The adoption of resolution A/RES/59/11 by the General Assembly on 28 October 2004 with 179 Member States voting in favour has once again unambiguously reflected the position of an overwhelming majority of members of the United Nations to reject the embargo and call for its immediate termination.

2. The application by the United States of America of laws, in particular the extraterritorial legislations such as the Torricelli and Helms-Burton Acts and measures such as those implemented since 30 June 2004 following the recommendations of the "Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba", are clearly formulated with the sole intention to hurt Cuba and the Cuban people, including the most vulnerable among them, the children, the women, the elderly and the infirmed. They are also clearly aimed at limiting Cuba's access to markets, capital, technology and investment, in order to exert pressure on Cuba to change its orientations and amend its political and socio-economic systems. We view these as actions not consistent with the universally accepted principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and also the relevant resolutions of the United Nations. In addition, they are provocative, extremely discriminatory in nature and have undermined the principles of sovereign equality of States, fundamental human rights and the spirit of peaceful co-existence and good neighbourliness among States.

Mr. President,

3. Malaysia remains fundamentally opposed to all forms of economic, commercial and financial sanctions and embargoes that contradict the norms of international law and run counter to the principles and purposes of the United Nations. Such actions also contradicts the “ Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations” adopted on 24 October 1970 by the General Assembly. We are particularly opposed to the continued unilateral application of the coercive economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba. The embargo by the United States of America against Cuba is not only a violation of international law but as has been confirmed and documented by various reports, violates the rights of the peoples of Cuba and impedes their rights to enjoy life, to economic well-being, and to development itself. The embargo has caused tremendous socio-economic damage to the country. The direct cost to date to the Cuban people is estimated at over US\$ 82 billion. The embargo has further aggravated the hardship of the peoples of Cuba, more than two-thirds of whom have lived under the dark cloud of the United States of America unilateral embargo and sanctions regime all their lives.

4. In this regard, my delegation would like to once again appeal to the United States of America, as a staunch advocate of free trade, human rights and good relations among nations, to respect the Charter of the United Nations, and the norms and principles of international law. We thus call on the United States to rethink its overall approach towards Cuba and evolve its policy from one of isolating its small neighbour to one of dialogue and accommodation. It is also our fervent hope that in the new spirit of the times, which promotes dialogue and understanding in a world of increasing interdependence and globalization, the United states of America would be able to evolve its policy on Cuba towards a more realistic orientation, and place its relationship with its smaller neighbour on a new footing. We thus urge the United States of America to end its current policy and to engage in serious dialogue to resolve its problems with Cuba.

Mr. President,

5. I believe this will be the 15th consecutive year that the General Assembly will be adopting by an overwhelming majority this resolution reflecting once again the international community’s total rejection of the unilateral measures imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. This rejection was reaffirmed in the Final Document of the XIII Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Kuala Lumpur in February 2003 and also reiterated by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the NAM at its XIV Ministerial Conference, held in Durban, South Africa in August 2004. It was also reflected in the Declaration of the Second South Summit in Doha in June 2005. We thus urge the international community to continue to exert serious efforts to bring about an end to the unilateral economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba.

Mr. President,

6. Malaysia maintains excellent relations with both the United States of America and Cuba. Malaysia believes that its relations with Cuba, especially in the fields of economy and trade, will be further enhanced in the absence of the unilateral embargo imposed against Cuba. In this regard, Malaysia, once again, reaffirms its commitment towards respect for the fundamental principles of sovereign equality among States, non-interference in their internal

affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation. Malaysia thus joins the call by the international community for an immediate cessation of the embargo on Cuba, which had violated all the fundamental principles of international and humanitarian laws.

7. We note, however, that in spite of all the obstacles and impairments including natural disasters and catastrophes like hurricanes, drought and most recently the rising price of oil, as well as those that have been caused by the economic, trade and financial embargo imposed on Cuba for more than 44 years, Cuba due to its own tenacity and reknown resilience and working under the permanent slogan” A better life for all with the Support of All’ has managed on its own to achieve three sets of targets in the Millennium Development Goals(MDGs), that of universal primary education, promotion of gender equality and empowering of women and the reduction in child mortality. Cuba has made significant progress in the other targets too. We are confident that without the embargo, Cuba would have been able to achieve all the targets of the MDGs.

Mr. President,

8. Malaysia once again reaffirms its strongest commitment for the full respect for the fundamental principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in their internal affairs. In order to uphold these sacrosanct principles of international law, Malaysia as in previous years would not waver from its principled position and would like to reaffirm its solidarity with Cuba and its peoples by supporting and once again voting in favour of the draft resolution A/60/L.9.

Thank you, Mr. President.